

It is here that facilities for voluntary sterilization being promoted by the Simon Population Trust can make an important contribution. Vasectomy, unlike abortion, is a trivial operation which does not destroy life nor injure health and according to recent evidence is reversible in nine cases out of ten if a skilful surgeon is available. The flood of applications from husbands which followed the announcement of the Simon Trust project, suggests that, as has been shown in India and the USA, voluntary sterilization in this country may prove to be highly acceptable.

HERBERT BREWER

CHILD CARE

Kellmer Pringle, M. L. (Editor). *Investment in Children: A Symposium*. London, 1965. Longmans. Pp. xi+180. Price 12s. 6d.

THE NATIONAL BUREAU for Co-operation in Child Care was set up in 1962, its aims being to minimize ignorance of child development by encouraging research, by attempting to co-ordinate work that was in progress and to facilitate useful co-operation between all agencies concerned in child care. This book, with a foreword by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead and an introduction and summary by the Director of the National Bureau, the editor of this publication, is based on the papers that were delivered at the first conference of the Bureau. The theme throughout is "prevention" and the promotion of positive mental, emotional and physical well-being during childhood.

The eight contributors to the Symposium are from the fields of education, psychology, paediatrics and social work. Each discipline is considered from two aspects, (a) theory and policy, and (b) administration and practice. The outstanding chapter is by W. D. Wall; he gives an interesting account of educational institutions and their role from a historical point of view, illustrating the fact that the function of the schools has changed over the years. He stresses that the major aim to-day should be guidance and makes a strong plea that all the services should be centred or concentrated within an educational framework, for the schools are

after all, he argues, in touch with all children for a minimum of ten years.

Other chapters echo the need for a fuller understanding of child development, so that preventative action may be taken where necessary, as well as any treatment that may be required. Throughout the symposium there is a strong emphasis on the need for more integration of the social services that are available and it is also stressed that the help or treatment given should be family, rather than child, centred.

J. M. ROSS

Standing Conference of Societies Registered for Adoption. *Medical Aspects of Child Adoption*. Honorary Editor, **Hilda Lewis**. London, 1966. Pp. 58. Price 5s. Obtainable from Mr. A. Rampton, Gort Lodge, Petersham, Surrey.

"THIS IS A collection of papers which, with the exception of the first, were originally read at conferences organized in recent years by the Standing Conference; they have now been revised and brought up to date by their authors. The first paper is a reprint of an article by the chairman of the Medical Group of the Standing Conference, Dr. Hilda Lewis, who has edited and arranged the other papers in this book. It is hoped that the ground covered is sufficiently wide to be of interest to all interested in the medical aspects of child adoption."

This quotation from the Foreword, written by the Honorary Secretary of the Standing Conference, sums up the nature and purpose of this booklet. It contains some nine papers, ranging from specific topics such as chest conditions, tuberculosis, heart and circulatory disturbances, blood tests and epilepsy, to a consideration of more general aspects such as ante-natal and perinatal factors and neo-natal disorders. Then there is a third group of papers whose scope is wider still: medical responsibility in adoption; adopted children in adolescence; and heredity as it concerns adoption.

While the medical reader may well be most interested in the papers relating to his own speciality, the general reader is likely to find the last-mentioned contributions most stimulating. Dr. Lewis outlines those features of the 1958